

*Privately Printed*

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*Colonel Sinclair's*

L E T T E R

TO HIS

E N E M I E S.

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Colonel Sinclair

LETTER



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*Colonel Sinclair's*  
*K*  
LETTERS

TO HIS

*ENEMIES.*

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“ AND I CONTENDED WITH THEM, AND CURSED  
THEM, AND SMOTE CERTAIN OF THEM AND  
PLUCKT OFF THEIR HAIR, AND MADE THEM  
SWEAR BY GOD.” NEH. XIII. 26.

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March 20th, 1796.

WEST-HUMBLE LODGE, Surry.

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Colonel Sinclair's

LETTERS



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AND COMPARED WITH THE ORIGINAL AND  
THESE AND SOME CERTAIN OF THEM AND  
THAT OF THE ORIGINAL AND HAVE THEM  
SWORN BY GOD

March 20th 1796

Witness my hand and seal

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THE  
AUTHOR  
TO HIS  
FRIENDS.

GENTLEMEN,

**W**HEN any individual is under the painful necessity of addressing *his enemies*, in the form of a challenge, in order to extort a proof of their injurious calumnies, it may be justly inferred, as he is thus ready to meet them upon the fair field of—a candid investigation of facts, that the party accused is innocent of the crimes laid to his charge.

To you an appeal of this sort is unnecessary. And as there are many professions where stigmas pass unheeded, and the consequences of those stigmas not felt, had I been brought up in any of the humbler walks of life, conscious of my own rectitude, I should not have been under the necessity of thus addressing you.

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I have



I have much consolation in knowing that I have friends, and who too *are friends*, because they know I have been cruelly traduced in private. It is some consolation to me also, that I can dare my enemies to substantiate one proof of the calumnies which they have so industriously propagated. By this publication, *with them* I am at issue; and it is certainly as much with a view of justifying my friends in their adherence to a seemingly proscribed character, as with any intention of vindicating my own conduct.

My accusers are of a peculiar cast of character: Had they been ever so respectable, (and many of them are the very reverse), it is impossible they could have been more successful in undermining my well-founded hopes of Preferment; but what they wanted in respectability, they have amply made up by their industry and skill in intrigue. I have suffered accordingly. It ought, however, to have occurred to those who listened to and believed the calumniators, that whenever any person, but more especially one who is interested, bespatters the character of another, he throws out a strong indication that he himself has

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none of the best; as policy, although a mistaken one, always dictates to a low mind, that the best method of diverting the attention of mankind from his own defects, is to be vociferous as to those of others.

To conclude—if this vindication of my honour should not be productive of those solid advantages which might naturally be expected from it, I shall enjoy the satisfaction of publicly justifying the conduct of my friends in supporting my claim to the patronage of Government; while I have exhibited such incontrovertible facts as must for ever silence all my base calumniators.

none of the best: as policy, although a mistaken one, always dictates to a low mind, that the best method of diverting the attention of mankind from his own defects, is to be vicious as to those of others.

To conclude—if this vindication of my honour should not be productive of those solid advantages which might naturally be expected from it, I shall enjoy the satisfaction of publicly justifying the conduct of my friends in supporting my claim to the patronage of Government: while I have exhibited such incontrovertible facts as must for ever silence all my base calumniators.



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TO THE  
PUBLIC.

FOR these four years past, while I have been the victim of intrigue and malice, Justice has not yet overtaken my enemies. It is true, that the exertions of my Friends, and even of many illustrious personages, have in some measure indemnified me for the injury which my fortune has sustained, owing to my zeal and the voluntary sacrifices I have made in the suffering cause of Royalty in France; but their efforts, and their friendship, of which I am proud, have hitherto but little availed against the calumnies of those enemies of whom I have to complain.

The voice of Friendship is low, soothing, and melodious, like that of the flute or the harp, confined within the four walls of an apartment;—whilst the voice of Enemies is like unto drums, trumpets, and the din of war, proceeding from a thousand mouths, and carried by ten thousand more, far and wide, and into every corner.

I find myself therefore obliged to obtrude on the Public in my own defence, by giving to truth  
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and the testimony of my friends and protectors, that publicity which the industry and rancour of mine enemies have long given to falsehood and calumny.

It may be asked why I appeal in so public a manner, as I am not a public character? The answer is ready: because such have been the artifice and industry of mine enemies, that they have shut up every other avenue to redress: Even the *laws* of my country have been to me no weapon of offence; neither have they been to me a shield. It should also be recollected, that as a Soldier, who has fought in the service of my country, and carried arms in the same cause in which Britain bleeds this day—whose whole life has been devoted to military pursuits, I may be permitted to think that *existence*, deprived of *honour* and *reputation*, is no *existence*; although my being branded with the want of both is owing to the basest of manœuvres and the most despicable of the human race.

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## A LETTER, &c.

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**T**HOUGH I served as a volunteer in the English army, at the bloody and disastrous action of Bunker's Hill, in America, my career, as a public man, did not, in my own opinion, commence till the civil war in Brabant\*, in which I served as colonel, and adjutant-general to Gen. Schoenfield, commander in chief. In this capacity, I may, without fear of being contradicted, aver, that I found opportunities, and employed them, of being serviceable to most part of the English officers who served in that army; and though they were numerous, there were, I believe, none who did not profit, more or less, by my influence, both with the commander in chief and the congress.

Without entering here into the crooked politics of the Prussian monarch and of his general,

\* In the interval, I have served (though that is not a matter of much importance) as captain in the Polish army, and as a volunteer in the Prussian armies, on account of their reputation for excellence in military tactics; a practice very common with officers from other nations, during the life of the great Frederick.

which



which are well known upon that occasion, I am justified in saying, that I then kept clear from any participation in it; and persevered in my independent and unbiaſſed duty in ſuch a manner, as put it out of the power of a man who was a *Traitor* to the poor people of the country, to reprehend me for one ſingle action; on the contrary, he was frequently under a neceſſity, in his general orders, of approving of my conduct.

I left that ſervice, as will be evident from the teſtimonies (A and B) in the Appendix, not only with the thanks and approbation of the ſtates of Brabant and Flanders, but with the ſtill better teſtimony of my own conſcience, written in my mind, (tho' not on parchment,) of having ſaved the lives of ſeveral thouſands of perſons, before and during the ſhort time that I commanded in Bruffels. In addition to thoſe teſtimonies in writing, I received from the ſtates of Brabant, a gold ſnuff-box, containing an hundred Louis-d'ors, with a patent for a penſion of 4000 florins\*; which, however, the Emperor reſuſed to ratify; not being ſo ſenſible of the motives on which it was grounded, as the men who had been eye-witneſſes to my conduct, and who being citizens of Bruffels themſelves, felt a perſonal and ſtrong

\* The ſanction of the Emperor was neceſſary; and it is not ſurpriſing that having had great reaſon to be diſcontented with that war, he was averſe to recognizing merit in a man who had oppoſed him.

obligation,

obligation, for the harms which I had averted from that city, and given while the memory of my disinterested conduct was still fresh in their minds.

When Gen. Schoenfeld left the army and the command of Brussels, not only abruptly, but secretly and in the night, I was called into the town by the inhabitants: **THIS WAS THEIR BREVET OF CONFIDENCE**—of which I am not a little proud; while they not only refused it to the general, but even menaced his life. The Government and care of the Treasury then devolved on me; when I am sorry to say, that some English officers finished their career in that country by the most shameful acts of depredation and pillage; insomuch that I, as governor, was obliged to use my authority, and arrest General B----

I found in the Treasury two waggon-loads of crowns, and a case of gold coin; and, though I arrogate no merit to myself, yet to a calumniated man, it is certainly an honour, that such was the discipline which I caused to be observed, though every department of the administration had ceased, those treasures \* were given up by me personally to the Imperial army, commanded by the

\* The better to secure the treasure, I put it under a guard of dragoons; and went with a Trumpet to hasten the Austrians, whom I met at Waterlow.

veteran General Bender, whose advanced guard was commanded by General Brown.

Many of my enemies, according to the revolutionary mode of proceeding, have shown that in similar circumstances, they would have gone off with all---to do which I was counselled by several British officers; one of whom is now a staff-officer in the English army; though this by no means throws any reflection on many of the brave British gentlemen who served there, and whose conduct was such as would have done honour to any service.

After having finished, in this manner, my career in the Brabant war, about the end of 1790, I found myself at liberty: And, in consequence of a former acquaintance with Monsieur de la Fayette, I was invited to go to Paris; where, in the beginning of the year following, during his sunshine, I was much about his person.

Monf. de la Fayette's character has become so enigmatical since that time, that I must here explain what to me he appeared to be.

In America, before the revolution, I considered La Fayette as a young nobleman loving liberty, and a friend both to his king and his country; though I never approved of some parts of his conduct. After the revolution, I considered  
him



him still as the friend of his King, as on many occasions he had repressed the ardent impetuosity of the revolted people. Those who were in Paris at the time must know, that in many points of view La Fayette's conduct might be looked upon as meritorious; and it is certain, that the moment he was driven from the head of the National Guards, the King had no longer any protection; nor Order or Property any point round which they could rally.

I soon however perceived from the late experience in revolutions which I had had in Brabant, that the French revolution was taking a bad turn; that the impetuosity of the people and of the assembly, the importance of the King long gone, his want of what the French call *caractère*; and, on all hands, a total want of system, added to the rapid strides of the Jacobins, must end in republican anarchy, or in a civil war.

Every soldier is or ought to be more or less stimulated by ambition. Flattered by the attentions of La Fayette and General Deportaile, then war minister, I proposed a corps of light troops, (riflemen), which was instantly adopted; and my commission was signed by the King on the 17th of June, 1791.

The flight of the royal family, on the 21st of  
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the same month, convinced me that the French army was not the army of the French king. I consequently determined not to serve in it; but in consideration of an intimacy with which I was honoured by a certain great personage, (inimical to republicanisim), I was entrusted with a secret mission, with which I quitted France, for Coblenz; and never returned, except with the army of the Princes in the campaign of 1792, in Champagne.

Prior, however, to my quitting Paris in 1791, I had the misfortune to form a hasty connection with a young lady, who, besides her personal attractions, her liberal and polite education, was given out by her father as heiress to a fortune of 100,000*l.* at his death. This lady acted her part very well, under the direction of her parent, who had also ingratiated himself with a society which I frequented; representing himself to be a person worth 200,000*l.* sterling, which was to be equally divided between his two children. In short, I did not hesitate about forming so desirable a connection; and accordingly married the lady. But that baneful alliance, from its fatal commencement to this present moment, has not ceased to load me with unmerited miseries and complicated mischief.

My military pursuits, and the object of my  
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commission to Germany, obliged me to leave this lady at Paris, in the care of a family of friends; where she immediately discovered herself to be an adept in every species of vice. This family, having been instrumental to my making the unfortunate alliance, did not, from delicacy, divulge her misconduct and her crimes; and they sent her, as I thought, in purity to rejoin me. As to her fortune, I soon perceived the error into which I had been led; as instead of 5000l. sterl. a-year, which I was taught to expect, I found, upon enquiry into the respectability and circumstances of her parents, that I might not expect One shilling fortune, but might be *certain* of a considerable share of obloquy and disgrace from the *very* honourable connection which I had so imprudently and so precipitantly formed. Notwithstanding I was thus deceived, I was determined to make the best of a bad bargain: for, besides her personal attractions, her education and talents had impressed me with sentiments of the most sincere regard: in fact, I am not ashamed to say, I was then literally in love with her.

I accordingly furnished her with an equipage and household establishment equal to my rank and fortune; so that had she been possessed of the smallest spark of prudence, in my then situation she could not have been otherwise than fortunate and happy: but my military avocations were such

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as to leave her at home, in the full exercise of her natural disposition; and that was productive of such scenes of complicated vice and libertinism, that none but the most depraved of the human race can have any conception of. Even to such a degree did the evidence adduced against her at Brussels and in Germany exceed every thing hitherto heard of in such cases, that any person would have been led to suppose, prejudice had exaggerated her crimes; had not her *singular conduct* and *strange disgraceful connections* since that period, been strictly analogous to the circumstances which brought on her disgrace. Thus, instead of the fortune I was to have received, and the happiness which I promised myself, I was literally 5000*l.* *minus* by the connection, including the law expences for a divorce \*.

In September, 1791, I communicated the foregoing plan of forming an army of Light Corps to the Princes at Coblenz; the particulars of which were examined, in my presence, by a council of General Officers, at which the Prince de Conde and the Marechal Duc de Broglie presided: the  
result

\* My enemies and the friends of that lady say, that the divorce is not lawful in England. My answer is shortly this, she has been proved on record to have been guilty of such atrocities, as would have established the validity of a thousand divorces in any country.

result of which was, that the Princes not only honoured me with the first capitulation in the new army, but also created me Proprietor of the Corps of Chasseurs Royaux des Princes. They likewise charged me with executing different important concerns in the formation of that army.

In October, 1791, I was sent to England by the Princes, upon the following affairs of consequence: first, to provide for the army at Coblentz; and, secondly, to arm and equip the aristocrats of Normandy. When I arrived in London, in spite of every obstacle thrown in my way by the democrats in England, who even attempted to assassinate me in the streets, I nevertheless executed all my commissions at the given time, to the entire satisfaction of the Princes and Marechal Duke de Broglie; and thereby sacrificed considerable sums of my own private fortune, which have never been returned to me.

With respect to this mission, it is to be observed, that notwithstanding of the opposition clamour raised against Ministers and Magistrates for not punishing me for my hostile preparations against a country, with which England was at peace, I had prepared arms, accoutrements, &c. to land in Normandy, with the knowledge of the secretary of state, who then managed the war department.

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In the month of February, 1792, I fell a victim to the intrigues and envious cabals which prevailed too generally at the court of Coblenz, where St. Morys, comptroller of finances, and counsellor of the parliament of Paris, relation to Monf. de Calonne, in order to satisfy his ambition, adopted the most base and unheard-of sanguinary means to reduce me to the necessity of resigning my commission as colonel propriétaire to his son, a boy of eighteen years of age. To effect this with the greater certainty, St. Morys and de Calonne imposed upon the Austrian government, and procured my arrest in the Netherlands, in order to prevent my return to the regiment. This atrocious attack upon my person was the only certain means by which they could succeed; as by the tenor of my capitulation, not only the raising, arming and equipping the corps were at my sole expence, but also its subsistence, until it had passed the review complete. This detention and violence, therefore, obliged me at length to consent to de Calonne and St. Morys's views; being advised thereto by that worthy and exalted character the Marechal Duc de Broglie, to prevent the entire ruin of my fortune. This despicable manœuvre was successfully exposed by the honourable decision of my court-martial held at Ghent, as also by the declarations and letters from the Princes, the Marechal Duc de Broglie, the Count de Meternicht, &c. to the Duke



Duke of York, Mr. Secretary Dundas, Sir James Murray, and many other distinguished personages. See Appendix, C. D. E. F. G. and H.

Exclusive of an immense sum due to me from the King and Prince, for which I have their notes of hand, the comptroller of finance also found means to defraud me out of a large sum, which he had appropriated to his personal purposes, and for which, in his ministerial capacity in Germany, it was impossible to bring him to account.

After the retreat of 1792, St. Morys fled to London; and though he has been proved to be the principal cause of the destruction and disgrace which attended the royal Princes and their adherents, yet, upon his arrival in London, Ministry obtained for him the protection of a foreign ambassador; to which circumstance I owe the loss of every claim I had upon him; as he quitted this country in an expedition to Quiberon Bay, where he died. Since his death, I have followed the ordinary course of law, in endeavouring to force his heirs to administer to his effects; but I have hitherto been baffled in every attempt, and his property has been concealed.

To enumerate the many slanders which have been propagated against me by those very people who have thus eluded justice, and who are in

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possession of my property, would be to encroach too much on the patience of the reader. To prove, however, the falsity of these slanders, I refer to the honourable testimonies of the Marechal Duc de Broglie, and other distinguished personages, as to my character, and which are contained in the Appendix, already referred to; compared with which, anonymous aspersions, or those which come through the contaminated medium of a St. Morys and his satellites, are as stubble and rotten wood.

But to return—As it was a project of the Austrian General Clairfayt, and the Minister Meternicht, to make a diversion in the Netherlands, by the volunteers, to annoy Dumourier in the rear, I was pitched upon to take the command; having formerly possessed the confidence of the Belgians. On this occasion the Duc de Broglie particularly recommended me to the Baron Dovereche, member of the Sovereign Council of Brabant, who also performed the functions of Chancellor, and who, from being active in defending the constitution in the former revolution, was suffered to remain quiet at Brussels. Accordingly, I passed through the French posts, by stratagem, from near Cologne to Brussels; where, after lying incognito, till the plan of operation was determined upon, in concert with the friends of Government, I dispatched the result of my mission

sion to the Austrian minister upon the Rhine, and retired into the Liege country; where I lay concealed, till the plan was ready to be carried into execution.

In that situation I was hid about two months, and frequently in the utmost peril of my life.—First, on account of the usual imprudent behaviour of my former wife, who had remained at my house in Liege; and who, instead of procuring me a safe and quiet residence; was in a continual riot and revel with the Republican officers, so as to render my own house the most dangerous place of residence. I was therefore forced to take refuge at the manufactory of arms, belonging to Mr. Velas, to whom I was indebted, in many instances, for my life. And, secondly, from being denounced, along with many other British subjects, peaceable inhabitants of that town, by a certain ENGLISH OFFICER, who had been a Republican agent in London, and who had very recently purchased clothes, and other articles for their army to a considerable amount. This person was then acting as a spy for the Republicans at the siege of Maestricht, for which he received 50 louis d'ors each journey; and was then raising a corps for the Republicans, with the rank of Colonel in their army.

This unprincipled English officer was interested



in many respects, in denouncing me to his republican friends; because he knew I had ample proofs of his unprovoked perfidy and treason against his own country, then in hostilities with France: but I escaped his sanguinary pursuits a second time through the humanity of that honest merchant Mr. Velas at Liege. An unexpected confusion and flight in the Republican army discovered the disgraceful employ and treasonable commissions with which this English JANUS had been charged.

This very officer fell afterwards into the hands of the Allies; and while in close custody, full proofs of several engagements which he had entered into with the regicides, were brought against him, to which he, in part, pleaded guilty, and which would have inevitably hanged him, had justice taken place: But, by the most palpable abuse of power in a certain personage, who it is to be hoped had been imposed upon, he was claimed as a British subject, and sent to headquarters; not, indeed, to be punished, but to be near the person of his protector, whose influence soon procured him a situation: this situation, tho' he is by no means qualified to fill, and although it has exposed him to the ridicule and contempt of the whole army, he still continues to occupy.

The political arrangements made between  
Prince

Prince Cobourg and Dumourier, on the 19th of March, 1792, after the battle of Tirlemont, rendered the dispositions made at Brussels, to annoy the retreat of the French, unnecessary. I shall, however, enumerate the particulars of the foregoing plan, which are as follow :

In conjunction with that part of the Belgians who were inimical to the Sans-cullotes, an army of upwards of 7000 volunteers were ready, at a given signal, to have possessed themselves of every post of Brussels ; when the French garrison, of course, were to have paid the tribute of war, as in all similar surprises, and under such circumstances.

The volunteers, after executing this first part of the plan, were then to have marched in two divisions, one by the port de Namur to Waterloo, and there to throw up works and lines of communication from that village, with the other column, which was to march by the port of Louvain, till they came to a position that would have corresponded with the lines from Waterloo ; cutting down the forest de Soigne, so as to form it into a continued abattis. From the natural strength of such positions, together with the formidable obstacles which the forest and the works would have created, and which in a few hours would have been completed, as exclusive  
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of the 7000 volunteers, all the town of Bruffels, and particularly the neighbouring villages, would at that time have flew to the spade, pick-axe or saw, there cannot appear to be much more wanting, in the opinion of a military man, for the accomplishment of the intended diversion against Dumourier. That general, being thus vigorously attacked in front, would never have fought to effect, by force, his retreat; cut off as he then would have been by Bruffels. If, however, he had imprudently attempted to retreat this way, I with my volunteers, situated as I was with a very heavy artillery, would have kept the French in play, and at a respectable distance, until the victorious Austrians had come upon their rear; and every man must have either been exterminated, or have surrendered.

Had that first plan been executed, instead of entering into a parley and treaty with Dumourier, by an Austrian aide-de-camp at Tirlemont, on the 19th, after the famous battle of the 18th, there is every reason to believe, it would have answered every purpose expected from Dumourier's treachery, which was his last alternative.

Dumourier, it must be allowed, had done what never was done before with French troops: after four days hard fighting, his lines frequently broken and thrown into disorder, to rally and re-  
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gage five times in one day, and then to stand at the bayonet, foot to foot, stab for stab, during forty-seven minutes, was what may be recorded as a new effort of French valour! As, in all former histories, whenever they were once routed, the next rallying post was generally many hundreds of miles from the field of action.

I have since been told by General Thouvenot, Dumourier's adjutant-general \*, who was afterwards employed by the English, that they knew of my preparations against their retreat through Brussels; and that they could have evaded every danger, by destroying me, and prevent-

\* General Thouvenot, certainly did not use his endeavour to destroy or to take me, but sent word that if I chose to save myself, I must take service in the Republican army, and that a command was at my service, at the advanced posts, with rank of general, &c. I evaded this, by secreting myself; and what proves some truth in Thouvenot's assertion, is that the next day, my house was surrounded by Carmagnols; from this circumstance it is to be presumed, he had some secret views towards the cause to which he knew I belonged. Thouvenot farther declares, that it was not only to save me from the fury of a denunciator, an Englishman, but that knowing my secret operations, through the means of his arrangements in favour of royalty, he offered me the command, in order the better to effect my purposes and correspondence with the Austrian avant posts, &c.

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ing my operations; but that they rather accelerated them, by winking at my conduct.

As to the sincerity of this pretended favourable statement of the matter, I am very much inclined to doubt it: It is an old trick amongst those who fall into the hands of the enemy, by whatever means it may happen, that they pretend to be very happy at the event; and, that it is a circumstance which they have long endeavoured to accomplish: nay further, very often prisoners wish to pass themselves off for deserters. I am, however, disposed to believe more favourably of Dumourier's honour as a soldier, engaged as he was in a cause which he embraced from principle. It is true, he used craft and stratagem in order to deceive his adversaries; and much of his success is attributed to his great talent in deception, in saving himself in Champagne. In my opinion, however, every thing he did was strictly admissible; and, if in his place, as a soldier I myself would have done the same, if in my power.

I am also persuaded, from what I saw of the hard fighting from the 14th to the 19th March, 1792, together with the circumstance which attended the retreat of the French out of the Netherlands, as also from the different oral details which I have received from his own staff, as to that political manœuvre of Dumourier, that the  
 Prince

Prince of Cobourg was completely outwitted by that general's pretended treachery to give up all the French army and the frontier towns.

In resuming this mysterious conduct of Dumourier, the particulars of which, from the reciprocal shame attached to both parties, have never been detailed on either side, I shall only observe, that that General gained all he could hope for, from the distracted state in which his flying army was. His retreat being secured to the frontiers of France, and by the town of Brussels, in order to deposit all the church plate, and other plunder, magazines, &c. Dumourier only gave up what would have inevitably been taken, along with himself, and his whole army, had Clairfayt been the commander in chief.

Certain it is, that had it not been for the envious cabals which at that time prevailed in the French army against Dumourier, he would have given Cobourg another proof of his generalship; but all defeats, with the French, if battles are ever so well fought, are owing to treachery. As he was obliged to assume the appearance of sincerity in his treaty to give up the frontiers, it was taken for granted he really meant so; but had not the Convention precipitantly interfered, I have very little doubt as to the part he would have acted,

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Be this as it may, as my suggestions will not change any circumstance in the present state of things, I have to observe, I did my duty in the original plan ; and my conduct procured me the protection of the Austrian Minister, as before mentioned.

It is necessary to state, before I quit this subject, that in the execution of the foregoing plan of operation at the head of the Brabancon volunteers, I was promised necessary aid, by being supplied with the proper officers from the Austrian army. As the expedition, however, was rendered void, none were sent ; nor did any but myself ever hazard his person at Brussels. One, indeed, received a gratification of 1500 florins, for having only advanced with the Austrians, to be ready to pass, in case of need, to my aid. That mercenary soldier, now a major in the British service, but once my comrade, I then reprehended for bartering the price of honour for gold ; but now I see, with pain, that zeal and disinterested loyalty are held in ridicule.

When I arrived, with the Austrians, upon the frontiers of France, where the English proposed to augment their army by mercenaries and new levies, I had the honour to give in my propositions, and a plan of formation of a corps ; and was recommended by some of the first personages,

ages, both in England, and upon the continent; some of whose recommendations I have inserted in the Appendix.

I was aware, in this application, that the British officer before-mentioned, who had been so powerfully protected at Head Quarters, was interested to keep me at a distance, by whatever means he could effect it. I was also apprised, that the unhappy woman which I had repudiated, had just been liberated from Aufbourg prison, where she had been confined with one of her infamous connections; and that she had joined an interested banditti of French intriguers, who thinking her a very capable agent, worked upon her furious imagination, in hopes of plundering me of my property, and glutting her revenge for her pretended unmerited disgrace: in short, every engine imaginable was set at work, that could have a tendency to injure and ruin me. Conscious of the rectitude of my own conduct, I looked on, for some time, with contempt, notwithstanding they actually represented me to have been at the head of a republican column; that I was in close correspondence with the Convention, &c. In the prosecution of every diabolical measure, these wretches found this enraged lady a most able assistant. Natural humanity prompted me, indeed, to spare this unfortunate tool to these artful and interested vagabonds, the coadjutors of

St. Morys, in propagating these and similar calumnies. Some of those, however, who openly exceeded the limits of the law, I punished: one has since been hanged, two transported; Vanderhoop, the perfidious lawyer, who attempted for a bribe, to reverse the sentence of the court, that had been pronounced against my quondam wife, broke both his legs and a thigh, in trying to escape from justice; but he even in that situation also suffered an ignominious death. As to St. Morys, who was one of the chief interested plotters of my ruin behind the curtain, he finished his pillaging career on the isle of Houat, near Quiberon, as before observed.

Being at length fatigued and worn out from repeated attacks, and such unsuccessful applications to the British head quarters, only for answers to the solicitations of my friends, it was at last suggested to me by a great personage in the Austrian government, that there existed a hidden obstacle which would for ever obstruct my success in every thing that I either could point out, or the most illustrious patronage could propose for me. The same personage went so far, at last, from friendship, to name a certain British peer, resident at Brussels, who had personally, and by his brother, given such proofs of their great influence, and of their intentions to injure me, that what he then told me was beyond a conjecture.

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He assured me also, that the Minister Plenipotentiary Comte de Meternicht had both written and spoken in my favour to the Duke of York; but that the aforesaid peer had interfered to destroy every good office, which Comte de Meternicht proposed himself the pleasure of rendering me; that also, for the satisfaction of those personages, who interested themselves in my favour, it was directly asked of the same peer, what were the causes of his prejudice, which must be very recent, as he had shewn a disposition to serve me some time before: after many indirect evasive answers, he at length said, it was for the sake of a lady, with whom he pretended I only cohabited; that my divorce could not be legal in England with my former wife; and that the lady in question he had an old attachment for; and that he was determined to separate us, &c. The same personage, who had my honour and prosperity at heart, not knowing the strength or the nature of my attachment, finished his narrative in the presence of a British officer, by entreating me to abandon my connection with the second lady; urging that I had better been guilty of ten capital crimes, than the imprudence of bringing upon me the resentment of a disappointed lover; who also stimulated every other enemy, particularly the vengeance of an enraged and disgraced woman. I was aware of the difficulty and danger pointed out to me; and I also recollected, that

that through the old doating General Benezet, with whom I had ever been at variance, it was easy for such desperate conspirators to have recourse to violence, in a country where the military law can be enforced under the pretext of justice.

Accordingly the next day I was apprised by a letter (now in my possession) from the Chancellor, the Baron Dovershe, to be upon my guard, as my persecutor had even an intention to deprive me of my liberty.

In conformity with the apprehensions expressed, by the chancellor, of diplomatic violence being the last resource of my noble persecutor; the same night my country house was surrounded by armed troops, attended by two officers, who on being interrogated by what authority they were sent, and what was the purport of their mission, could not give any satisfactory account; only that an information had been laid against me, at the commander's, and that all my papers were to be examined. This was instantly complied with, which being so very voluminous, several persons were employed in reading them all the night; who finding every article more than ordinary loyal, the officers exclaimed that there was some foul play at the bottom, and afterwards shewed me their order; which stated, That I had made some inflammatory observations relative to the war;

war ; and, that by examining my papers, some writings would be found, so as to authorise the guard to use me with harshness ; that they were to use every means to alarm me ; and that if I shewed any inclination to evade them, they were to suffer me to escape : but above all means, to detain the lady, and to use her with every civility\*.

Of this outrage I formally complained to the minister Meternicht, who could render me no other justice, than to trace the information to its source ; and to become answerable for my political principles and conduct to the commandant of the Police Guards, &c. as every person without exception was liable to the same inconvenience upon an information being duly given ; and which in those countries is often issued from pique or interested motives. The same day the Chancellor Baron Dovershe sent for me, and

\* It is exceedingly necessary to discriminate between the woman I divorced, and this lady. The latter is a character of the highest respectability, worth and beauty ; connected with some of the first families in this kingdom, and is as exemplary for amiable qualities, goodness of principle, greatness of soul, and for every virtuous attention in rendering me happy ; as the former is for the reverse. Indeed, the connection which the depraved woman, that I allude to, formed long ago, with one of the most infamous characters that ever existed, fully evinces what she is.

re-



recommended to me either immediately to depart for London, and to profit by the minister's letter with Comte Staremberg, or otherwise to make my peace with Lord Elgin upon the best terms I could ; and if possible to convert him from an enemy to a friend.

On this occasion, I only felt the disposition to be firm ! and by the rectitude of my conduct, to despise all that this powerful enemy could do, as much as I ought to smile at the pitiful and interested motives by which he was actuated.

My Lord was then unacquainted with the reality of my marriage with the object of his wishes--a circumstance which had taken place, soon after divorcing my former wife ; nor could he reconcile it to himself that so beautiful a woman should prefer being the wife of an officer of my rank, to become the lady of a handsome young nobleman, possessing such unbounded authority abroad : besides too, he was prepossessed with an idea of his pre-eminence, as having been the lady's former neighbour and acquaintance.

I had frequently been in the habits of writing to, and seeing Lord Elgin in his official capacity, without directly accusing him as my slanderer ; but I have often complained to him of the outrages committed upon me, to prejudice me in  
my

my promotion, by some powerful, though dastardly, interested and envious enemy ; who lay lurking, like an assassin, to stab me in the dark, and who durst not meet me upon fair and open ground. This last representation was reiterated to him, also, by an officer who waited upon him on my account, the day after the above insult was offered to my wife and family : but, my Lord always waved the subject, or parried off the attack in such a manner as to evade coming to any explanation.

Agreeably to Baron Dovershe's advice, I determined upon setting off for England ; but I first waited on Lord Elgin ; and without derogating from the respect due to his Majesty's minister at Brussels, I informed him in plain terms, that the lawyer Vanderhoop had denounced his Lordship as the person who had re-animated the former class of conspirators, whom I had punished ; and that he had excited them to new hostilities against me. I also added, that he had, by means of his own lawyer, and a bribe, gained over my lawyer to his party, with a view to get the divorce reversed ; and that this lawyer had informed me of these particulars, on account of his dreading my vengeance, and also to put me on my guard. I likewise told his Lordship, that I had never been his dupe ; but hoped, from conscience and a sense of his duty, that he would have desisted

F

from

from such an unprincipled pursuit; and, that in the end, he would have given me a plaister sufficient to cover the wounds he had inflicted.

I also shewed his Lordship in what respect he had attempted, though unsuccessfully, to injure me with the Austrian government; and that the poor unhappy divorced woman had been stimulated to disseminate the most atrocious calumnies to injure my reputation.

From these premises, I took the liberty to state to his Lordship, that I had every reason to suspect he had made an improper use of my papers and letters of recommendation, which had been addressed to the Duke of York, and that had passed officially through his hands: That many of these papers were to have been returned to me, which he had pretended to have mislaid, particularly two from England; the one, a letter of recommendation from a great personage, and another from a very respectable quarter: That this last stated, my having sacrificed my military interest and promotion to my present alliance; and that I should have succeeded better, had I been guilty of felony—destitute of attestations and friends—or, even had my sacrifices been made to the enemies of my country—rather than have drawn upon me the vengeance of the disappointed Minister, presiding at the seat of war.

I even



I even took the liberty of proving to his lordship the validity of my friend's assertions, by reciting to him different instances of his lordship's promoting worthless persons to eminent employments; one in particular had been proscribed in England, a dishonest man in all his actions abroad, and whose conduct had been inimical to the cause of his country.

I also shewed him proofs that it was by his own machinations and emissaries he had caused the before-mentioned conspirators to come before him, to make and to write declarations against me; as also to send them to different places, in order to justify his returning the prejudiced answers he had given concerning me.

In short, being resolved upon setting off for England in a few days, I wished to shew him that I was not ignorant of his unmanly actions, and by the only admissible terms I dared to use, invited him to adopt a more honourable mode of venting his fury upon me, than by dark assassination, so contrary to the valiant race of heroes his ancestors. That not being able to make any impression upon his lordship, who did not directly deny the accusations, I tried another expedient to move his spirit, and very seriously invited him to honour us with his company the next morning, at the celebration of the marriage ceremony, (for

the second time) with his charming friend, supposing the nuptials had not already been performed; upon which I took my leave.

The next day I received a very long official letter, replete with ignorant and arrogant threats, yet containing jesuitical sentences, which paved the way for a vindication of the treatment I had received, provided his lordship's conduct should afterwards have been called in question. I would not, however, be at a loss in exposing the fallacy of any argument he could make use of to my disparagement: although I give him credit for endeavouring to gloss over such circumstances (as far as relates to myself) as would discredit him in his diplomatic character.

Upon the whole, we need not go to Paris or Madrid to experience Bastiles or Inquisitions; as when English Ministers are enabled by law to pursue their own individual caprices, they can distinguish themselves, by as many cruel and despotic acts as their neighbours.

But to return: Baron Dovershe offered to procure me a letter from the Minister Comte de Metternicht, to Mr. Dundas, or Lord Grenville. That minister, however, having learnt, that these two English secretaries had been previously poisoned by the artful machinations of my enemies, he preferred

ferred recommending me to the Comte Staremberg, the Imperial minister, in London, in order that he might use his interposition for me, and procure me a fair hearing ; this letter I brought to England ; at the same time the Marechal Duke de Broglie, wrote the annexed letter to Mr. Dundas. See appendix (F.) G

On my arrival in London, I found that through the kind interposition of Lady Melbourne, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had frequently interested himself in my favour, at the war department : But even His Highness met with a repulse. Other personages, too, who had solicited in my behalf, had experienced the same fate ; and a certain relation of my wife, was even admonished by the Dundas's, not to solicit any further for me. This last rebuff convinced me that it was useless to have friends, attestations, or patronage, if the Minister Mr. Dundas was prejudiced against me. And therefore, finding every avenue shut up, that could lead to him, or to a fair hearing, I sent him a copy of the following memorial ; keeping the letter addressed to Comte Staremberg in reserve.

COPY



COPY of a MEMORIAL of COL. SINCLAIR, to Mr. Secretary DUNDAS, delivered in June, 1794, and in August following.

“THE Underfigned, J. G. SINCLAIR, bearing rank of Colonel in the armies of France, begs the candid attention of Mr. Secretary Dundas to the case here submitted to him. J. G. Sinclair, devoting himself, from the first breaking out of the present disturbances in Europe, to the Royal Cause, suffered in it most severely. As soon as Great Britain began to take part therein, and to hire foreign troops, he made offers of service, and asked employment under the patronage of some of the first characters in this country, or on the continent. From a concurrence of unfortunate events, he lost his suit last year; and now, having come hither to solicit afresh, and to make offers, which, from their being more advantageous to the country than any other, he hoped would have been accepted; and being assisted by more and more active friends, he hoped himself on the point of being replaced in that sphere, where he might again employ his most strenuous exertions in the cause; when, on a sudden, a damp was thrown on all, and his most zealous friends, some of whom were admonished to interfere no more for him.

No man is totally clear of faults, nor exempt from jealousy and detraction; and Mr. Sinclair  
has

has strong reasons for thinking that these last have operated to bar the way, and prevent his obtaining an impartial examination of his pretensions, his character, and his offers. He wishes not to avoid the most strict examination of his conduct; being fully satisfied that it would end in the approbation of his principles and conduct, military and political; and doubts not, that when this should be the case, Mr. Dundas would give all the weight that may appear due to the testimonials and recommendations he has to produce; and all the attention they may deserve, to the proposals of service he has to make.

He humbly and earnestly entreats Mr. Dundas to honour him with his attention, and, if possible, an interview on this subject; as also to solicit a legal authority, to bring to this country, sixteen hundred stand of very valuable double-barrelled rifled carabines, according to a model deposited with Mr. Garden, army accoutrement maker, Piccadilly; or if not, that he will depute some one in whom he has confidence, to investigate the matter, and to whom Mr. Sinclair will give every satisfaction and explanation that can be required.

These arms Mr. Sinclair provided at an immense expence; being a new invention which he proposed for the Corps which he solicited to raise; and which, should he not be so fortunate

as to obtain, he entreats that the above arms, with a quantity of hussar pistols, may be deposited in any of his Majesty's store-houses, till government can otherwise dispose of them \*."

William Sheldon, Esq. of Gray's Inn, undertook to deliver the above Memorial, being personally known to Mr. Dundas; but this, too, produced no effect.

Hearing that the French were again invading Brussels, I set off on the 2d July, for that place; not only to save my family and effects, but also the arms above alluded to. I was likewise resolved, at all events, to bring my Lord Elgin to an explanation, if I could prevail upon him to act like a MAN. I arrived there on Sunday Eve, the 7th July, 1794, when all the armies had retreated out of one end of the town, and the French were entering at the other; my family having escaped in time to Liege: the next day I reached them there, and returned by Holland.

\* Each of these carabines cost me nine carolines in Austria; for which Mr. Jover in London asked 50 guineas a-piece; and even the Birmingham manufacturers demanded 12 guineas each, upon condition that 4000 were contracted for. These fell into the hands of the Carnagnols. What says Mr. Dundas to this?

to



to England, staying only a few days to rest at the Hague.

Calumny was here again busy ; and a report was spread at the British head-quarters, which had reached Monsieur and the Comte d'Artois, that Colonel Sinclair had returned into Brabant, and was at the head of 3000 men, pursuing the allies, &c. \*

In August following, I met Lord Elgin near the British coffeehouse, Cock-spur street, when our conversation was long, and no doubt very troublesome to him. I recapitulated every thing to him that had transpired at Bruffels ; as also the information I had received from Baron Dovershe the chancellor, and Count de Meternicht ; as also the manner in which Mr. Dundas had be-

\* At the very time these reports were so industriously propagated to my disadvantage, there was some appearance of reality, from the circumstance of a Col. St. Clare being actually in the Carmagnol service ; and as far as personal bravery was concerned, I lost nothing by the comparison ; but the character alluded to, has been made a general for fighting for his country—whilst it has been my fate to be a severe sufferer for defending mine. Besides, he is distinguished by rapid promotion, though a youth, half my age ; whilst I have grown grey in the service, without being rewarded for either my services or my sacrifices.

G

haved

haved to some very respectable characters who had spoken to him in my behalf.

Upon this occasion, Lord Elgin, as if conscious of his malpractices, of his own accord offered to remove every prejudice that ministry entertained against me. I accepted the offer of his good offices, and gave him a copy of the same memorial already mentioned; which he promised, upon his honour, to deliver to the Minister, and to back it with his interest. To my astonishment, however, I never heard any thing farther from him. Possibly as his Lordship found himself personally implicated, and incapable of defending his former conduct, he was ashamed to justify it; and, as I was about the same time seized with a violent sciatica, which obliged me to retire to my house, at Ham Common, I never troubled his Lordship any further.

I imagined that three things would have operated on the ex-ambassador. He was now simply a subject of the King on the pavement, upon a footing of equality in London, where there were no hussars, dragoons, nor arbitrary imprisonments. I thought also, that a sense of the injuries he had done me, might then have induced him to do me justice; and, last of all, as I spoke with animation, and he requested me not to be in a passion,  
but

but to speak coolly, I therefore had hopes, that partly through fear, and partly through justice, he would do what he said; and therefore I trusted this enemy.

One of the last proofs that I have given of my attachment to my own sovereign, and the interests of my country, was conveyed to Ministry thro' a very respectable channel. I planned an expedition to Holland, which I offered to conduct in person. That carried into execution, would have made Great Britain mistress of the whole naval power of that country. As there has been time for repentance, so there has also been occasion for it; as the formidable fleet which Holland has lately fitted out, fully evinces. Why Government did not avail themselves of the communication, is an enquiry that ought to be set afoot: certain it is, that cruel and unjustifiable prejudice against the projector was one of the principal reasons why it was laid aside. In every respect the plan was unexceptionable, and fraught with beneficial consequences to this country.

Upon the whole, it must appear very strange, that I shall have been so peculiarly unfortunate, that Ministers should refuse me every means of pursuing my profession, although I have never abandoned the cause which this country is supporting with all her strength; and that it should



also happen, that the only man whom they could find to suit their purpose in directing the Quiberon Bay expedition, should prove to be the identical St. Morys, who had so notoriously contributed to destroy the royal cause—a man who had not only pillaged me of great sums of money, but who had also found refuge from the pursuits of his creditors, through the means of those very ministers, who had been forewarned of his villany.

However much Ministry may have been imposed upon and prejudiced against me, surely in strict justice they cannot with impunity be instrumental in robbing me; but as I shall, in this instance, apply for redress in a court of law, I shall forbear reciting particulars.

I shall further observe, that however ill and inhumanly others have acted towards me, that is no reason why I should in any one respect deviate from those principles with which I set out. I carried my honour and my fortune \* to Coblenz,

\* Although I have only stated my own sacrifices in the common cause, it may yet be necessary to acknowledge, that it never was my intention to reduce myself to the last shilling; had I not been excited to uncommon exertions, by the more than ordinary loyalty of the Reverend Mr. HUTCHINSON, whose political principles and attachment to me, induced him to assist me with large sums not only to accelerate my mission for the Princes, but also to complete my regiment.

and

and devoted them and my blood in the cause of the Princes and nobility of France ; now that they are unfortunate, and that chance has thrown one of them, Monsieur, in my power, ruined and distressed as I am, I shall never insist on payment. No ! let others follow my example ; and there is only another creditor who holds his notes of hand TO ORDER.

Let that person, and all his other creditors, like myself, rescind and annul every claim upon him, until the Princes are reinstated : that will be giving a proof of the sincerity of their attachment to him and to his cause ; and he will no longer be obliged to be shut up in Holyrood House ; for it is hardly to be suspected, that a Prince of the house of Bourbon will ever requite disinterested generosity with ingratitude.

and devoted them and my blood in the cause of the Princess and nobility of France; now that they are unfortunate, and that chance has thrown one of them, Monsieur, in my power, ruined and distressed as I am, I shall never insist on payment. No! let others follow my example; and there is only another creditor who holds his notes of hand to order.

Let that person, and all his other creditors, like myself, remind and annul every claim upon him, until the Prince is rehabilitated: that will be giving a proof of the sincerity of their attachment to him and to his cause; and he will no longer be obliged to be shut up in Holyrood House; for it is hardly to be suspected, that a Prince of the house of Bourbon will ever remain distinguished generosity with ingratitude.



## CONCLUSION.

**SUCH** is my Address to the Public—my Friends—and my Enemies. To those last, perhaps, I lie under an obligation; for they have brought forth testimonies in my favour, which I could not otherwise have had the vanity to produce, and the value of which no man will dispute. (See appendix L. K. L. &c.)

It is certainly a victory to be blackened by St. Morys and his Squad, and to be approved by a Marechal de Broglie and a Count de Meternicht. Against those who have testified their approbation of my conduct, and who have done it after having granted me their confidence, or witnessed my behaviour, neither reproach nor suspicion can exist: And, as to my enemies, Lord Elgin excepted, the others are BELOW the reach of reproach: they are cloathed with infamy, as with a garment; and, if this noble Envoy does not clear himself, he will be in the same predicament. I have given him a fair opportunity, by accusing him plainly and distinctly; and in such a manner as his ancestors of the name of BRUCE were not accustomed to pass over.

I have

I have proved to all the world, that I have been trusted, and that I have acquitted myself honourably. I do not deny having my share of those weaknesses which too often fall to the lot of mankind. That to my personal affairs I have often been inattentive, is true, and much to my own detriment; but that, I humbly apprehend, ought not to be a matter of PUBLIC blame; as I alone have suffered: But, amongst my faults, it never can be said, that detraction was one; and it has ever been my practice, when I accused an enemy, to vindicate my conduct in any manner that Justice or Honour required, which there is not one of my enemies can or dare do; or, if there be, I desire nothing better than to give them an opportunity.

**THE END.**

## APPENDIX.

(A.)  
**LES ETATS DE BRABANT** déclarent en faveur de la justice et de la vérité que Monsieur Gordon de Sinclair s'est comporté en homme d'honneur, pendant les onze mois qu'il a servi dans l'armée Belgique: que sa bravoure et ses talens militaires dont il a donné des preuves multipliées pendant ce tems, lui ont attiré la confiance et l'estime des généraux et des Etats respectifs, au point qu'il a été promu au grade de Colonel, et d'Adjudant du Général Commandant en Chef le Baron de Schoenfeld: qu'il a servi ces emplois militaires avec toute la distinction, intelligence et capacité possibles, et à la satisfaction d'un chacun, même dans les circonstances les plus épineuses, comme entr'autres celles où se trouvoit la ville de Bruxelles à la fin de Novembre dernier: C'est pourquoi les dits Etats recommandent le même Monsieur Gordon de Sinclair à un chacun à fin qu'il puisse être employé selon le grade, et avec la distinction qu'il mérite. Fait à Bruxelles, ce 4 Janvier, 1791.

PAR ORDONNANCE,

(L. S.)

DEJONGHE.

NOUS



(B.)

NOUS LES ETATS DE FLANDRES certifions que Monsieur Gordon de Sinelair a servi les Etats unis Belghiques, en qualité de Colonel et Adjudant-General du Commandant en Chief, l'espace d'onze mois, avec fidelité, bravoure et distinction, et à la fin de Novembre dernier, (epoque la plus epineuse), il a été appelé à Commander dans Bruxelles, où on attribue à sa grande activité, et vraie bravoure, le bonheur d'avoir échappé à toutes les horreurs dont la ville et les Representants de la Nation, ont été menaces.

Nous ayant aujourd'hui demandé sa demission, nous avons bien voulu lui donner la présente sous le sceau de la province, pour lui servir et valoir. Fait à notre Assemblée, le 2 Decembre, 1790.

LES LTATS DE FLANDRES, PAR ORDONNANCE,  
(L. S.) JOSEPH F. DE BAST.

(C.)

I insert the following Attestation of the Commander in Chief, to shew, that after being dispossessed of the highest military distinction (being that of Colonel Proprietaire of a regiment), in order to satisfy that insatiable ambition which distinguishes the de Calonnes; I nevertheless did my duty in MONSIEUR's regiment, at the advanced posts and being sometimes near the walls of Chalon, and not *totally* unacquainted with the politics which then preponderated, I may be supposed to have gained some knowledge of that curious campaign,  
from

from the time that the Duke of Brunswick took the command, up to the fatal retreat from Champaigne.

**NOUS VICTOR-FRANÇOIS Duc de BROGLIE, Mar-  
chal-General de France, Prince du Saint Empire  
Romain, Chevalier des Ordres du Roi, Gouverneur  
& Commandant en Chef dans la province des Trois-  
Evêchés, cours de la Sarre, & de la Meuse, frontieres  
de Champaigne & du Luxembourg, ci devant Com-  
mandant en Chef des armées Françoises en Allemagne,  
& actuellement celle des Freres du Roi sous leurs or-  
dres.**

Certifions que le Colonel Gordon de Sinclair a servi pendant toute la campagne aux postes les plus avancés, dans la Brigade de MONSIEUR, qui composoit l'Avant Garde de l'armée, avec honneur, et toute la distinction possible, et parfaitement à ma satisfaction ; ainsi qu'à celle des generaux, sous les ordres desquels il a servi ; et comme il me demande la permission de s'absenter de l'armée pour vacquer à ses affaires, jusqu'à un nouvel ordre, Je lui ai donné le present passeport, pour lui servir et valoir, tant qu'il lui sera nécessaire.

Fait au Quartiers General d'Arlon, le 14th Oct. 1792.

(L. S.)

**LE MAR. DUC DE BROGLIE.**

(D.)

**NOUS VICTOR-FRANÇOIS Duc de BROGLIE, Mar-  
chal General de France, Prince du Saint Empire Ro-  
main, Chevalier des Ordres du Roi, Gouverneur-Ge-  
neral de Metz & Pays-Messin, Verdun & Pays-Verdu-  
nois,**

nois, Commandant en Chef pour le Roi dans les trois Evéchés, Metz, Toul & Verdun, cours de la Sarre & de la Meuse, frontieres du Luxembourg & de la Champagne, ci-devant General des armées de sa Majesté le Roi de France en Allemagne, &c. ayant commandé celle de Monsieur et Monseigneur Comte d'Artois, pendant la campagne de 1792, et Ministre d'Etat.

Certifions a tous ceux qu'il appartiendra que Monsieur de Baron Gordon de Sinclair a levé à la fin de l'année 1791, avec l'agrément de Monsieur & de Monseigneur Comte d'Artois, un Corps de Chasseurs, sous le nom de Chasseurs Royaux des Princes Francois, & pour leur service, dont il a ensuite retrocédé la propriété par des arrangements particuliers & par déference a leurs desirs, en conservant le grade de Colonel Ccommandant d'Infanterie; qu'il a servi sous leurs ordres a l'avant garde de leur armées pendant la campagne de 1792, ou il a montré beaucoup d'activité, de volonté & de courage, & qu'il n'a pas mis moins de zèle, & d'intelligence pour remplir plusieurs commissions, importantes pour leur service, dont il avoit été chargé, & dont il s'est acquitté a leur satisfaction; en foi de quoi nous lui avons delivré avec autant de plaisir que de verité, le present Certificat, pour lui prouver notre estime, Fait a Dusseldorff, le 21 Aoust, 1793.

LE MAR. DUC DE BROGLIE,

(E.)

It may appear singular, that after Colonel SINCLAIR had so recently been fighting against the Emperor, he should so very soon obtain the patronage of his ministers; particularly after so long and painful a court-martial. But  
it



it ought to be recollected, that the result of his command at Brussels was so highly honourable, that the difficulty vanishes. Besides, the evidence on the court martial not only tended to clear up the Colonel's character, but also developed the infamy of his acusers.

The following Copy of a Letter will farther illustrate this :

COPIE de la LETTRE écrite à Mons. le Comte de METERNICHT, par Monseigneur le Marchal Duc de BROGLIE, pour accompagner des propositions faites par Mons. de SINCLAIR.

Dusseldorff, 11 Decembre, 1792,

MONSIEUR,

Monsieur Gordon de Sinclair est venu me parler du desir qu'il auroit que votre Excellence voulut bien lui faciliter les moyens de pouvoir contribuer à la reuiffite d'une cause, qui par sa justice lui inspire un vif interet, en agreant son projet de reunier un Escadron de Volontaires ; qui ne feroient pas à la charge de sa Majeste Imperiale. Il aura l'honneur de soumettre a votre Excellence le plan qu'il a formé a ce sujet. Je ne me permets pas, Monsieur, d'entrer dans l'examen des motifs qui avoient engagé le Gouvernement de Pays Bas a ordonner au commencement de cette année l'arrestation de Mons. Gordon de Sinclair. Mais je ne puis me despenfer de lui rendre la justice de dire que dans les enterprises dont il a été chargé, pour le service des Princes, il a fait des grands sacrifices, et qu'il s'est acquitté avec intelligence et honneur,

neur, de toutes les commissions que leur Altesses Royales  
lui ont confié, et dont quelqu'unes étoient importantes.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, avec la considération,  
la plus distinguée, MONSIEUR,

De votre Excellence, le très humble

et très obeissant serviteur,

LE MAR. DUC DE BROGLIE.

Their Royal Highnesses were pleased to strengthen the  
above Recommendation by the following Attestation.

(F.)

NOUS Louis Stanislas Xavier Monsieur, & Charles  
Philippe Comte d'Artois, fils de France, freres du Roy,  
Certifions que le Sr. Gordon de Sinclair a servi en qualité  
de Colonel dans notre armée, qu'il s'est comporté en  
homme d'honneur, avec zèle et devouement, pour la bonne  
cause, et de manière à meriter notre satisfaction.

Fait à Dusseldorf. le 11 Decembre. 1792.

LOUIS STANISLAS XAVIER,  
CHARLES PHILIPPE.

F(G.)

COPIE d'une LETTRE écrite par M. le Maréchal de  
BROGLIE, à son Excellence M. DUNDAS, Ministre  
d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Le 27 Octobre, 1793.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai l'honneur de recommander aux bontés de  
votre

vosre Excellence, M. le Baron Gordon de Sinclair, auquel je dois le témoignage qu'il s'est dévoué avec le plus grand zèle pour le service de S. AA. RR. les Princes, oncles de Sa Majesté Louis XVII. Son activité, son intelligence, & sa bravoure, le rendent, je crois, infiniment capable de commander un corps de Chasseurs. Je connois trop l'ardeur avec laquelle vosre Excellence à embrassé les intérêts de la plus juste des causes pour douter qu'elle n'accueille avec bonté un de ses plus zélés défenseurs.

Je la supplie d'agréer l'assurance des sentimens de la considération la plus distinguée, avec laquelle.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

COPIÉ d'une LETTRE écrit par M. le Maréchal Duc de BROGLIE à M. le Baron GORDON de SINCLAIR.

A Dusseldorff, le 13 Decembre, 1793.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 9 de ce mois, d'après la conversation que vous avez eu avec M. le Comte de Jarnac. Je vous envoie cy joint la copie de la réponse que je lui fais ainsi que de sa lettre, qui pourroit vous servir à désabuser M. le Chevalier de Murray sur votre compte, suppose qu'il en eût besoin.

Je vous adresse aussi, la lettre que j'écris à S. A. R. Monseigneur le Duc d'York, & que vous pouvez lui présenter. Si tout cela ne fait pas cesser la persécution qu'on vous suscite, il faudra que vous soyez né sous une bien malheureuse étoile. Mais j'espère qu'il n'en sera pas ainsi,



ainsi, & je le souhaite beaucoup, parceque vous en mé-  
ritez une favorable.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, plus parfaitement que personne,  
MONSIEUR, votre très-humble, &c.

(Signé) LE MAR. DE BROGLIE.

Je vous ai envoyé le 18 Novembre, la lettre que vous  
m'avez demandée pour M. le Chev. de Murray, vous ne  
m'en avez pas accusé la réception, ni mandé l'usage que  
vous en avez fait. Faites le moi donc savoir, ainsi que  
le succès qu'elle aura eu, ainsi que celle que je vous en-  
voje aujourd'hui pour Monseigneur le Duc d'Yorc.

A Monfiemr le Baron de SINCLAIR, Colonel au  
service de France.

(H.)

COPIE d'une LETTRE de M. le Maréchal de BRO-  
GLIE, adressée à M. le Baron de SINCLAIR.

A Dusseldorff, le 18 Novembre, 1793.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait  
l'honneur de m'écrire, qui n'étoit point dattée. Je ne  
perds point de tems à vous envoyer celle que vous désirez  
pour Monsieur de Murray. J'espère qu'elle dissipera au-  
près de Monseigneur le Duc d'York ces nuages qu'on  
avoit cherché à jeter sur votre conduite, et qu'elle le  
mettra en garde contre celui, ou ceux, qui auroient été  
vos calomniateurs.

J'ai l'honneur d'être bien parfaitement,

MONSIEUR,

Votre très-humble, &c.

(Signé)

LE MAR. DE BROGLIE.

COPIE

COPIE d'une LETTRE de M. le Maréchal de BROGLIE à M. le Chevalier de MURRAY, Adjudant Général de S. A. R. Monseigneur le Duc d'Yorc, au Quartier Général de ce Prince à Tournay.

A Dusseldorff, le 18 Novembre, 1793.

Je fais, Monsieur, que l'on a cherché, et que l'on cherche encore à desservir, dans l'esprit de S. A. R. Monseigneur le Duc d'Yorc, M. Gordon de Sinclair, qui a servi la campagne dernière dans l'armée de Monsieur Régent de France. Des manœuvres de cette espèce, ont été employées contre lui des ce tems là, & j'ai eu lieu de vérifier la fausseté des imputations, que ses envieux se permettoient de faire à son désavantage. Je lui dois la justice de vous dire, que je n'ai reconnu en lui, que beaucoup de zèle, d'activité, & d'intelligence, & une qualité encore plus rare, qui est un grand désintéressement, puisque bien loin d'avoir fait une affaire de finance, ni tiré aucun profit de la levée du régiment de Chasseurs, qu'il avoit faite pour le service de nos Princes, il s'en faut de cent mille livres que ses avances ne lui soient rentrées ; & qu'il n'a pas voulu jusqu'ici, par respect pour eux, faire usage des billets qui lui avoient été fait de cette somme, par celui auquel il avoit, pour leur plaisir, fait la cession de la propriété de ce régiment de Chasseurs, quoique ces billets soient echus et devenus exécutoires. Ce témoignage que je rends à M. le Baron de Sinclair, avec autant de vérité que de plaisir, semble devoir mettre Monseigneur le Duc d'Yorc, en garde contre les calomniateurs de cet officier, qui sollicitent de lever une Légion pour être jointe à celle de M. le Comte de la Châtre, car en général, ceux qui se permettent de jouer un semblable

B

role,

rôle, sont bien dangereux à la tête d'un corps nouveau puisqu'ils y portent et y entretiennent l'esprit d'intrigue par lequel ils y sont parvenus.

Je vous prie, Monsieur, de mettre cette lettre sous les yeux de S. A. R. J'espère qu'elle voudra bien être persuadée qu'elle m'est dictée par l'intérêt que je prends au bien de son service, & la recevoir comme l'hommage de mon très profond respect.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(I.)

COPIE d'une LETTRE écrit à M. le Maréchal de BROGLIE, par M. le Comte de JARNAC.

Bruxelles, le 8 Decembre, 1793.

MONSIEUR LE MARECHAL,

Monsieur le Baron de Sinclair, est venu me trouver, pour se disculper de l'idée qu'il savoit qu'on avoit repandu contre lui, *que dans le commencement de la campagne de 1792, il s'etoit conduit légèrement, et n'avoit pas rempli ses engagements vis-a-vis des Princes à l'occasion de la levée de la Legion, des Chasseurs Royaux.* J'avois effectivement oui dire cela, & par plusieurs personnes.

Il s'est présentée il y a quelques mois, une occasion, à l'armée de S. A. R. Monseigneur le Duc d'Yorc, avec laquelle j'ai fait cette campagne ci en partie, où on m'a demandé qu'elle étoit mon opinion sur cet officier. J'ai répété simplement, & *comme oui dire*, les mots que j'ai soulignés cy dessus. Monsieur de Sinclair croit qu'ils lui ont fait tort, ce n'étoit pas mon projet de lui nuire, mais c'étoit mon devoir de dire ce que je savois. Il m'ap-  
porte



porte a présent les preuves les plus authentiques de votre satisfaction, Monsieur le Marechal, et de la justice que vous lui rendez au nom des Princes, & au votre, & entre autres par une lettre en date de Bingen, le 15 Juillet, 1792. Mon caractère, Monsieur le Marechal, m'éloigne de tout envie de nuire, et mon devoir qui ne m'oblige point de tout de servir M. de Sinclair dans ses projets, m'oblige de dire les bien que vous voulez qu'on en pense, après avoir repeté un propos vague, que je repeterois encore tout-al'heure sur un inconnu ; mais que balance avec tant de poids votre témoignage respectable. J'ose donc vous prier, Monsieur le Maréchal, de vouloir bien m'autoriser a dire que cet officier n'a abandonné le commandement du corps des Chasseurs des Princes, que par un ordre spécial de leurs Alteesses Royales, & pour un arrangement qui leur étoit agréable, *& sans aucun sujet de plainte quelconque contre lui.* Une dernière lettre de vous, Monsieur le Maréchal, en date du 18 du mois dernier de Dusseldorf est un titre bien fort en sa faveur. Comme je compte partir au plus tard du 15 au 20 pour l'Angleterre, oserai je vous supplier, M. le Maréchal, de vouloir bien m'honorer d'une prompte reponse, et me croire avec un tres respectueux attachement,

Monsieur le Maréchal,

Votre, &c.

COPIE de la REPONSE de M. Le Maréchal Duc de BROGLIE, à la Lettre de M. le COMTE de JARNAC.

Dusseldorf, le 12 Dec. 1793.

J'ai reçu Mr. la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 8 de ce mois, par laquelle vous me marquez " que M. le Baron de Sinclair, est venu vous trouver  
relativement

relativement à des propos facheux sur son compte qu'il savoit qu'on avoit repandu contre lui." Vous me dites " être convenu que vous les aviez *effectivement* eutendus tenir, et par plusieurs personnes ;" et vous ajoutez, que vous ayant été demandé, quelle étoit votre opinion sur ces propos, vous les aviez répété simplement et comme oui dire." Je ne suis pas étonné que M. de Sinclair soit affecté de ce que vous avez répété ces propes, qui dans votre bouche étoient faits pour prévenir bien défavorablement contre lui Monseigneur le Duc d'Yorc. Ils ont eu effectivement cet effet, et lui peuvent porter le préjudice le plus considérable pour son avancement, et ce qui est bien plus important encore pour son honneur. Mais ce qui me surprend, c'est que vous ayez regardé comme un devoir, de dire ce que vous saviez, seulement par des oui dire, et dont vous n'aviez personnellement aucune connoissance. Je suis persuadé que vous n'avez pas eu l'intention de nuire à cet officier ; mais je ne puis m'empêcher de vous dire, que c'est avoir parlé avec une grande légèreté, dans une matière aussi grave ; et je pense que toute homme qui connoit le prix de l'honneur, croira, ainsi que vous me paroissez disposé à le faire, que vous êtes strictement obligé de détruire, autant qu'il est en vous, le tort que sans le vouloir, vous avez fait à M. de Sinclair, et de désabuser Monseigneur le Duc d'Yorc, et tous ceux que vous avez contribué à induire en erreur sur son compte. Le certificat que je lui ai donné, avec une entière connoissance de cause, et que j'ai affirmé par ma signature que je ne donne jamais légèrement, doit plus que balancer, ainsi que vous vous exprimez, " les propos vagues que vous avez répété." Et doit emporter la conviction de tous ceux qui me connoissent. Je ne fais pas pourquoi après avoir vu ce certificat. Vous me demandez de vous autoriser à répéter ce qui y est contenu.

Ce n'est pas par complaisance pour moi, que vous devez vous porter à le faire, puisque la probité vous en impose le devoir, auquel je suis persuadé que vous pensez trop noblement pour ne pas déférer, et *la justice qui n'exigait pas que vous servissiez M. de Sinclair*, qui vous étoit inconnu vous en prescrit à présent l'obligation ; étant de principes qu'on doit, autant qu'on le peut, réparer le mal dont on a été quoiqu'innocemment la cause. Mais je ne pense pas que M. de Sinclair ait sollicité d'autres bons offices de votre part auprès de M. le Duc d'York, que de détruire les impressions que vous avez pu contribuer à lui faire prendre sur le compte de cet officier.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(K.)

COPIE d'une LETTRE de M. le Maréchal de BROGLIE  
à Monseigneur le Duc d'YORK.

Dusseldorf, le 23 Dec. 1793.

J'ai appris que quelques personnes s'étoient permis de répandre des inculpations facheuses contre M. le Baron de Sinclair, et qu'elles les avoient fait parvenir jusqu'à votre altesse royale. Je me crois obligé de détruire des bruits aussi facheux que préjudiciables à la réputation de cet officier, et de lui rendre auprès de vous, Monseigneur, la justice que mérite, l'intelligence, le zèle et le courage, avec lequel il a servi sous mes yeux, pendant la courte et malheureuse campagne de 1792. Je dois aussi vous certifier que bien loin d'avoir fait une spéculation lucrative, de la levée d'un Régiment de Chasseurs, il a avancé des sommes considérables qui ne lui ont point encore été payées, et qui s'élèvent à plus de cent mille livres de France. J'ai

eu



eu connoissance parfaite de tout ce que ja'i l'honneur d'ex-  
poser à votre altesse royale, ayant été chargé par Monsieur  
le Régent de France depuis près de trois ans, de tout ce qui a  
concerné les objets militaires, et je crois pouvoir vous as-  
surer, Monseigneur, que M. Gordon de Sinclair est en état  
de rendre des services très utiles, à la tête d'un Régiment  
de Chasseurs, si vous daignez permettre qu'il en obtienne  
un, et lui accorder à cet effet vos bontés, et votre auguste  
protection. J'ai l'honneur de vous la demander pour lui.

Vous venez, Monseigneur, de finir une campagne dif-  
ficile, dont les événemens variés vous ont fourni des oc-  
casions de montrer, une activité, une valeur et surtout une  
égalité d'ame que vous avez toujours conservé dans les cir-  
constances très critiques, où votre altesse royale s'est plus  
d'une fois trouvée. J'ose la supplier de me permettre de  
la féliciter de la réunion si rare de ces qualités, et de lui  
offrir l'hommage du très profond respect, avec lequel j'ai  
l'honneur d'être,

Monseigneur,

De votre Altesse Royale

Le très humble, &c.

(L.)

COPY of a LETTER from the COMTE DE JARNAC,  
to his Excellency the Right Hon. Mr. DUNDAS, &c.  
&c. &c.

London, June 9th, 1794.

SIR,

Colonel Gordon Sinclair has  
communicated to me his desire, that I should strengthen  
the

the recommendations, he told me, he had for the British government, by declaring his zeal and disinterestedness with which he has served the common cause, and the great sacrifices he has made, for the service of the French Princes.

I therefore, from his earnest wish, and for the *sake of justice*, declare, that having in last December, at Brussels, *examined the said Colonel's correspondence and certificates of the Princes and Maréchal Duc de Broglie*, in order to destroy some envious cabals and intrigues, intended to injure the said Colonel's reputation. And,

That I have been in consequence, in correspondence with the Marechal, WHO HAS CONFIRMED TO ME IN THE MOST DIRECT MANNER, the high esteem he entertained for the Colonel's conduct. And I must add, to that honourable attestation, that from that time, I have heard nothing but what could confirm the opinion, which the Marechal de Broglie gave me from his own opinion, and from the French Princes' positive orders, given him on that subject, and

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed)

COMTE DE JARNAC.

N. B. This letter, as also some others, couched in terms, (which none but a person grossly imposed upon could use, the recantation of Comte de Jarnac, who acknowledged having been prejudiced against Col. Sinclair, by means of a cabal, and which was chiefly owing to the misrepresentation of De Calonne, St. Morys, and their hirelings,

hirelings, employed to propagate the calumnation of *their own* fabrication, in which they were advantageously assisted by his late enraged wife, who wrote letters, purporting to be those of her husband, and addressed them to herself; in which he was supposed to impute himself with crimes which they had invented, but which the Marechal has positively refuted. I must, however, express myself perfectly satisfied with the honourable conduct of the Comte de Jarnac (a Duke and Peer of the realm), who is now in London.

(M.)

COPIE d'une LETTRE écrit par Monsieur le Comte de DUTHIEL, en qualité de Chargé d'Affaires de S. A. R. MONSIEUR.

Londres, 14 Aout, 1795.

Monsieur de Sinclair, qui vous remettra cette lettre, mon cher Baron, desire avoir l'honneur d'être présenté à Monsieur; aux bontés du quel il a des droits par les preuves multipliés de respect et de devouement qu'il n'a point cessé de lui donner ainsi qu'au Roi, et particulièrement dans la conduite qu'il a tenue relativement à une obligation exigible qu'il a du Roi, et de Monsieur, et qui est échue depuis le mois de Janvier, de l'année dernière. Dans le temps j'ai eu l'honneur de rendre compte à Monsieur, combien cet officier avoit mis de menagements dans ces reclamations, ainsi que les assurances réitérées qu'il n'a cessé de me donner par écrit et autrement, DE NE JAMAIS TOURMENTER LE ROI ET MONSIEUR, pour le pay-  
ment



ment de ce qui lui est dû, ce qui monte à environs cent mille livres\*.

Ces preuves de devouement m'ont déterminé à saisir toutes les occasions, de pouvoir faire donner à Monsieur de Sinclair, des acomptes sur sa créance, et je dois à la vérité de dire que celui de £250. sterling, qu'il vient de recevoir, qu'il les à tous entier destiné à retirer des mains des four-nisseurs l'obligation du Roi et de Monsieur.

Vous voyez d'après cela, mon cher Baron, tous les droits de Monsieur de Sinclair à l'intirét et aux bontés de Monsieur. Aucun des fujets de Sa Majesté ne s'est mieux conduit qui lui. Adieu, mon cher Baron. Je vous embrasse de tout mon cœur.

(Signé)

DUTHIEL†.

Adressé à Monsieur le Baron de ROLL, Adju-tant-Général de MONSIEUR, Frere du Roi, au bord du Canada, à Portsmouth.

\* This sum has only a reference to one particular bill of exchange ; and does not relate to the whole of my account.

† The Princes, after I was forced to resign my regiment to satisfy the ambition of De Calonne, and St. Mory's family, settled an annuity of 3000 liv. per ann. upon me, as a compensation for my losses ; but I have not either claimed, or received one shilling of it ; as I conceived it my duty not to press them in their present situation ; and this £250. which Mr. Duthiel mentions as above, though given as a part of my claim, was to pay a debt of the Princes which I had rendered myself responsible for, and to save the Prince from being humiliated while at Portsmouth, for one of his bills that was then laying as a security for that sum.

COPY of a LETTER from the COUNT de DUTHEIL  
to the Rev. Mr. HUTCHINSON, inclosing the following  
attestation.

Londres, ce 28 Aout, 1785.

Monsieur de Sinclair, Monsieur, qui a eu l'honneur  
d'être présenté à MONSIEUR, de qui il à reçu des témoig-  
nages de bonté & d'affurance de protection, pour la con-  
duite qu'il a tenue envers le Roi et lui, ayant désiré que  
Monsieur, voulut bien lui donner par ecrit une preuve de  
ces mêmes témoignages de satisfaction, ce PRINCE a signé  
l'attestation que je joins ici, qu'il a regardé comme la re-  
ponse la plus victorieuse à opposer par Mons. de Sinclair,  
à toutes les calomnies que les enemis de cet officier se  
sont permis et pourront se permettra relativement à la con-  
duite qu'ils pretent à Mons. de Sinclair envers le Roi et  
Monsieur. Au depart de M. de Sinclair de Portsmouth, le  
sceau de Monsieur n'ayant pas encore été apposé, M. de  
Sinclair a désiré que j'eusse l'honneur de lui adresser par  
vous cette attestation, en vous priant de la lui faire parve-  
nir.

Je suis fort aise, Monsieur, que cette occasion me pro-  
cure le plaisir de me rappeler à votre souvenir, et me  
mette a portée de vous reiterer l'affurance de l'inviolable  
attachement, avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur,  
votre très humble et obcissant serviteur.

DUTHIEL.

To the Rev.  
Mr. Hutchinson.  
Bows, Middx.

ATTES-

## (ATTESTATION.)

CHARLES PHILIPPE de France, fils de France, frere du  
Roi, Lieutétant Général du Royaume.

Je rends avec bien du plaisir justice à Monsieur de Sinclair, sur la conduit qu'il a tenue envers le Roi et moi. Il est impossible de donner plus de preuves de devouement et de zèle que nous n'en avons recues de Monsieur de Sinclair, qui peut, et doit toujours compter sur la bienveillance du Roi ainsi que sur la mienne ; et nous ferons l'un et l'autre très empressés à donner à cet officier, dans toutes les occasions qui pourront se présenter des témoignages particuliers de notre satisfaction.

Rade de Spithead, le 23 Aout, 1795.

CHARLES PHILLIPE."

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✂ The originals of the foregoing Attestations and Letters are lodged in the hands of Wm. Sheldon, of Grey's Inn, Esq. for the inspection of any gentleman ; as also many other as flattering honourable proofs of Col. Sinclair's whole conduct, since he was a public man. The Minister the Duc de Harcourt, and Count de Duthiel, are at present in London, who can authenticate the respective signatures.

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## E R R A T U M.

It was to the Comte de Meternich, the Imperial Plenipotentiary, and NOT to the Baron Dovershe, to whom the Marechal Duc de Broglie recommended me ; as will appear by the Letter (E). *See page 22.*



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The many inaccuracies in Printing the French, were from the incorrectness of our English Printer, the next edition will be corrected, and contain 16 additional pages, suggesting the hitherto hidden and mysterious causes of the Duke of BRUNSWICK's fatal *retreat* out of Champaign in 1792.

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